Petroleum and Progress in Iran

From the 1940s to 1960s, Iran developed into the world’s first “petro-state,” where oil represented the bulk of state revenue and supported an industrializing economy, expanding middle class, and powerful administrative and military apparatus. Drawing on both American and Iranian sources, Gregory Brew explores how the Pahlavi petro-state emerged from a confluence of forces – some global, some local. He shows how the shah’s particular form of oil-based authoritarianism evolved from interactions with American developmentalists, Pahlavi technocrats, and major oil companies, all against the looming backdrop of the United States’ Cold War policy and the coup d’état of August 1953. By placing oil at the center of the Cold War narrative, Brew contextualizes Iran’s slide into petrolic authoritarianism within its relationship to international oil, the global development movement, and the United States. Synthesizing a wide range of sources and research methods, this book demonstrates that the Pahlavi petro-state was not born but made, and not solely by the Pahlavi shah.

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Petroleum and Progress in Iran

_Oil, Development, and the Cold War_

Gregory Brew

Yale University
To Megan and Margot
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Note on Transliteration

Persian names are transliterated into English according to the system used by the Library of Congress. For ease of reading, diacritical marks have been removed and spellings rendered in the form most frequently used in English-language publications: “Khudādād Farmānfarma‘īyān” becomes “Khodadad Farmanfarmaian,” for example.
Abbreviations

AIOC/ AIOC/ Anglo-Iranian Oil Company
APOC Anglo-Persian Oil Company
BP British Petroleum (BP Archives) Coventry, UK
DDEPL Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library
DELP David E. Lilienthal Papers
DRCR Development and Resources Corporation Records
FDRPL Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Poughkeepsie, New York
FIS Foundation for Iranian Studies
FISDS Foundation for Iranian Studies, Development Series
FO Records of the Foreign Office
FPSC Foreign Petroleum Supply Committee
FRUS Foreign Relations of the United States
HAG Harvard Advisory Group
HIOHP Harvard Iranian Oral History Project
HSTPL Harry S. Truman Presidential Library, Independence, Missouri
JFKPL John F. Kennedy Presidential Library, Boston, Massachusetts
KDS Khuzestan Development Service
LBJPL Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, Austin, Texas
MKI Morrison & Knudsen Inc.
NIOC National Iranian Oil Company
OCI Overseas Consultants Inc.
OPEC Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PAD Petroleum Administration for Defense
RAC Rockefeller Archive Center, Tarrytown, New York
RG Record Group (National Archives and Records Administration)
xiv  List of Abbreviations

RUSFAA  Records of US Foreign Assistance Agencies
SGMML  Seeley G. Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University
UKNA  United Kingdom National Archives, Kew Gardens, London, UK
USLETCLR  US Legation and Embassy, Tehran, Classified General Records
USNA  US National Archives, College Park, Maryland
WBGA  World Bank Group Archives